

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
JULY 24, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

At 4:01 PM, Director Ware opened the meeting. Robin Weinstein led with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Ware stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act had been given of this meeting and read the Open Public Meeting Act Statement.

On roll call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Bobbitt, Freeholders Timberman, Lindenmuth, Acton, Sullivan, Hogan and Director Ware.

R. 2007-366

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPROVAL OF
SALEM COUNTY'S PLANNED GROWTH CORRIDOR PROPOSED PLANNING AREA CHANGES
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM**

Freeholder Timberman moved to take the resolution off the table, with Freeholder Lindenmuth seconding her motion. On roll call, the motion to take the resolution off the table carried a hand vote of 7/0.

At this point in the meeting, Director Ware recognized Carolyn Armstrong to give an update of the appeal plan.

Ms. Armstrong gave a brief overview of what has gone into the preparation of this appeal and an update on the appeal noting that each municipality endorsed and submitted their townships standings.

Following Carolyn Armstrong's update, Director Ware opened the meeting to the public for comments on the foregoing resolution.

Jay Perry stated that it was hard for him to comment since he has not seen the plan, and also discussed the Gateway Business Project. That this appeal limited the growth area planned for this development park. Director Ware stated that the Board has planned for the future and the Clerk noted that this plan will again be up for review in three years.

Annemarie Bowman stated and discussed that the farmers in the development district, that are now being labeled as PA5, should be considered for preservation, under the Agricultural Development Board. She also questioned the new DEP rules. Ms. Armstrong stated that the new rules have not been adopted as of yet. She also noted that just because it is a PA5 does not necessitate any growth. Ms. Bowman also asked exactly what the State has planned for this area; Ms. Armstrong was not comfortable speaking for the State but did say that they are interested in Smart Growth. Director Ware also noted that the ADA is determined for each municipality. Mr. Perry disagreed.

Mayor Harry Moore stated that the Freeholders need to put more pressure on the State and Office of Smart Growth to examine closely the areas set aside for growth and that buffer areas set aside for wetlands.

Robin Niebels noted that the maps that he has seen separate his land in two half's, one a PA2 and the other a PA5. He can personally note any difference in the two properties. Ms. Armstrong stated that the State has to draw the line somewhere and they make that determination.

Anthony Wissenicki noted that he has over four hundred acres and discussed what are wet lands. He farms every bit of his land. Director Ware asked if he has been to the municipality to check the maps.

Matt Blake, from the American Littoral Society, wanted to know the position of the County on preserved farmland, TDR plans and the success as a tool to fairly distribute development. Director Ware noted that TDR is not on the agenda today. Mr. Blake further commented that this appeal is really no plan by the county. The County must work harder to protect the land, that this plan is full of flaws, and letting the municipalities make the decisions is just wrong.

Rose Sorbello noted her property is across the street from the Gateway Project and her legacy is that land and she wanted to sell; now it is a PA 5 and she is very upset about it.

Cheryl Reardon from CPR supports the Office of Smart Growth maps and decisions. It is very important to protect the wetlands, and the water areas of this County. A safe water supply is very important.

Director Ware then closed the public portion of the meeting and asked for a motion for adoption of the resolution. Freeholder Timberman moved to adopt RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPROVAL OF SALEM COUNTY'S PLANNED GROWTH CORRIDOR PROPOSED PLANNING AREA CHANGES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM, with Freeholder Lindenmuth seconding her motion. On discussion, Director Ware noted that most people will not leave here happy today. We vigorously support the 2001 conceptual plan of development for Salem County. Furthermore he stands behind Home rule, and the fact that each municipality speaks for their citizens and made decisions based on public hearings and that we should support their decisions. Deputy Director Bobbitt stated that he concurs with the Director and thanked Caroline for all of her hard work. He noted that the Freeholders must do what is best for all of the people. Freeholder Acton thanked her fellow Freeholders and staff for their hard work on this issue. She noted that being mindful of home rule she has confidence in the municipalities do what is right for the people that they represent. She will support this plan. Freeholder Sullivan is voting yes, and feels that it is the right vehicle for making this County progress. He agreed whole heartedly with the municipality's home rule. We need to work together.

With no other comments from the Freeholders, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

Director Ware then asked for a motion for adjournment. Director Bobbitt moved to adjourn the meeting, with Freeholder Sullivan seconding his motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:41 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Earl R. Gage
Clerk of the Board